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MILITARY

(Negative)

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From Moscow

EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

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1. Khrushchev to UN General Assembly. The Soviet press announced on September 2 that Khrushchev will head the Soviet delegation to the forthcoming UN General Assembly. It appears that by travelling to New York, Khrushchev hopes to focus maximum attention on Soviet disarmament proposals and to line up Asian and African countries behind a resolution calling for universal and complete disarmament. The Soviet press also reported that Gheorghiu-Dej will head the Rumanian delegation to the UN. It seems likely that all Bloc countries which are members of the UN will fall in with Khrushchev's maneuver and send their heads of governments to the UN for a disarmament debate. Khrushchev has set a limit for his stay in New York by the announcement made several weeks ago that he will visit North Korea in the early days of October.

2. Sino-Soviet Differences. (CONFIDENTIAL): Soviet public media have continued to adhere to the practice of conducting the ideological debate with Communist China in terms of unnamed "dogmatists" and "sectarians." One Soviet provincial paper, however, in an obvious dig at the Chicom attitude toward underdeveloped non-communist nations asked whether the Chinese Communist regime could have survived without Soviet support, using this argument to insist on discipline in following the line laid down by Moscow.

Rumors that a conference of Bloc communist party leaders will be held in Moscow in November to thrash out intra-Bloc differences suggest that the Bucharest meeting in June was unable to achieve agreement, despite claims to this effect by both Moscow and Peiping.

3. Khrushchev on US Elections (OFFICIAL USE ONLY): In his first public pronouncement touching on relations with the new US Administration in 1961 since the US political conventions, Khrushchev said it made little difference whether a Republican or Democrat is elected and implied that if there is to be an improvement in US-Soviet relations, it will come about through American recognition of Soviet strength and the necessity for "peaceful coexistence" as the only alternative to nuclear war. Despite Khrushchev's attempt to give the impression that the Soviets have no choice between Vice President Nixon and Senator Kennedy, he betrayed hope for a Nixon defeat by stating that if Nixon is elected, he would be no better a President than Eisenhower from the Soviet point of view. Soviet press comment often has been still less cautious in indicating a preference for Kennedy, noting the latter has spoken of the needs to improve US-Soviet relations and appoint Adlai Stevenson as Secretary of State.

4. Khrushchev departed for Finland (OFFICIAL USE ONLY) September 1 for his visit ostensibly to help celebrate Kekkonen's 60th birthday. The Soviet press build-up for the visit dwelt on the increasingly cordial relations between the two countries and was especially effusive in its praise of KEKKONEN for his activities toward this end. It portrayed him as a champion of "peaceful coexistence", emphasized the growing importance of Finland in international affairs by its UN and Nordic Council membership, and made a reference to Kekkonen's 1943 suggestion that Finland might participate

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in a common security system with the USSR. (Possibly unrelated, it was briefly noted elsewhere in the press that the Finnish Defense Minister was in the USSR until August 31, including the south where Khrushchev has been vacationing.)

5. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY) The exchange of messages between Khrushchev and Turkish Premier Gursel was published in both countries on September 1. The Moscow press refrained from comment but followed up the next day with a review of the press in Turkey and Bulgaria welcoming the exchange as an indication of improving relations between the USSR and Turkey. The Soviet reader was left with the impression that these relations not only have improved but are capable of further improvement in spite of Gursel's expression of steadfast adherence to CENTO and NATO and his rejection of a policy of neutrality.

6. The establishment of a new government in Iran has received tentative optimistic treatment by the Soviet press. No direct comment has appeared but the Iranian press has been quoted to the effect that improvement of Iran's relations with the USSR is possible, and that political circles in Iran are expecting a renewal of friendly negotiations with the USSR.

7. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY): GDR action against West Berlin in connection with the September 1-4 expellee meetings has received light and incomplete coverage in Moscow papers. The declaration of the GDR government inveighing against the meetings was briefly summarized, including the phase that measures had been taken on communications, but there has been no mention of the GDR decree or its actions restraining the movement of persons to or within Berlin. Subsequent commentary has consisted of reports by Soviet correspondents on the spot emphasizing the allegedly provocative nature of the meetings, West Berlin as a focus of hostile activity endangering peace, and West German militarism. However, the threat of a separate peace treaty with the GDR has not been mentioned in this connection.

8. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY): The OAS meeting on Cuba called forth a "statement" by Gromyko ostensibly in answer to Herter's address to the OAS of August 25. The statement attacks US "aggressive" policy toward Cuba and "imperialism" in Latin America, and defends the USSR as the champion of peoples "oppressed" by the US, and the guardian of peace everywhere. (Pravda August 31).

The OAS meeting has been scantily covered by the Soviet press and then only in terms of Cuban statements and views. Moscow's attitude appears to be summarized in the words of one Soviet lecturer that the people of Latin America support Cuba, and it matters little what their venal foreign ministers do or say in OAS meetings.

INTERNAL

9. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Leadership: N. S. Khrushchev's departure for Finland September 1 was the occasion for the first public gathering of sizeable group of the top leadership since the July 17 dacha party for the intelligentsia and the following day's visit with Khrushchev to a model home

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demonstrating new construction materials. In addition to L.I. Brezhnev, A.I. Mikoyan, M.A. Suslov and P.N. Pospelov who seem to have been carrying the major burden of party-government responsibility in Moscow during the intervening period, D. S. Polyanskiy and out-of-towners N.V. Podgorny (Ukraine) and K.T. Mazurov (Belorussia) were also present. That more of the CC Presidium's members and candidate members were not present to demonstrate the importance of the occasion and its central figure may be due to vacations and temporary duty assignments elsewhere. Thus, N.A. Mukhitdinov is heading the Soviet delegation in Hanoi, F.R. Kozlov and N.G. Ignatov have been in Bulgaria (presumably on vacation--not reported by Soviet press or other sources here), and A. B. Aristov may well be resting after extensive RSFSR provincial travels in the first half of August. Since many Finns have an active and understandable dislike for O.V. Kuusinen, the latter's absence may illustrate a degree of Soviet tact not always evident in Soviet-Finnish relationships.

10. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY) N. S. Khrushchev: After an unusual week in which there was no reported public activity of the party-government leader, Khrushchev has figured very prominently and publicly since the August 28 press coverage of his visit to his home-village area of Kalinov August 26-27 and his return to Moscow last Saturday evening. Although he is only reported to have received one official visitor (the Japanese Socialist Party figure Sudzuki on August 29), he paid well publicized visits to the Hungarian (with Janos Kadar) and Japanese Exhibits (August 30 and 31, respectively), and his various past and pending travels abroad have been featured heavily in the press and other media.

The daily reporting of North Korean jubilation in anticipation of his visit there in October joined by reported expressions of Finnish pleasure after the August 29 announcement of his current trip there. Also, favorable reactions of 'broad segments of the American public' will doubtless be reported following today's announcement that Khrushchev is to head the Soviet delegation to the UN General Assembly session.

The documentary film "Vienna Greets N.S. Khrushchev", still being shown in Moscow, is to be supplemented by a new and more ambitious documentary "Austria Meets the Emissary of Peace" (glowingly described in a feature article in Soviet Culture of September 1). His earlier "triumphs" in India also was called to public attention by TASS reports from New Delhi concerning Khrushchev's gift of an art album and a sputnik music box to the Indian schoolboy artist who won a first prize for a drawing featuring Khrushchev's welcome there.

An unfavorable and probably unintentional reference to Khrushchev's age which appeared in the midst of the press report of his visit to Kalinovka seems well belied by Khrushchev's own activity then, since and projected. (The reference was a note that venerable, grizzled oldsters who had gone to school with Khrushchev had attended a meeting in his honor August 26.)

11. Espionage and Vigilance (OFFICIAL USE ONLY): The Foreign Ministry on August 26 expelled Embassy Economic Officer George P. Winters because of alleged espionage activity. This action evidently was a reprisal for the

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recent expulsion from Washington of Soviet diplomat Ivanov, who attempted to suborn an American citizen. In a television interview which featured alleged US espionage activities, US defector Slaboda implicated Embassy military attache Col. Hoffman. No indication of further action has been given but the press campaign for militancy and vigilance against US espionage has continued at an unusually high level.

12. Whosoever Does Not Work Will Not Eat (OFFICIAL USE ONLY): On August 30, by emphasizing the Leninist slogan, "whosoever does not work will not eat" on his visit to the Hungarian Exhibit, N.S. Khrushchev gave his personal endorsement to the recently revived drive against "parasites", "speculators", "spongers", and "hooligans". The campaign was initiated by press coverage of a "theoretical" conference at the "Likhachev" autoworks in Moscow (Pravda of August 24). Through letters to the press, much commentary and frequent editorials, the drive has rapidly fanned out to all levels of society. At issue: control of many undesirable but difficult to regulate practices and elements of Soviet society. These include black-market speculation, establishment of small "service" businesses, refusal to trade free time and independence for an unwanted job, absenteeism, poor production work and juvenile delinquency.

The campaign appears to envisage greater control from official bodies, (possibly including additional punitive legislation), but, above all, assistance from quasi-official public harassment organs that reach into the shop and even the family circle. These include meddling neighbors, concierges, "comradely" courts and "collectives" of various kind. Much publicity is being given to the possibility of strengthening the prerogatives of these public sources.

13. Ideological and Artistic Deficiencies in Soviet Theatre: The USSR Ministry of Culture recently issued an order aimed at correcting ideological and artistic deficiencies in the work of Soviet concert and estradny (variety show) organizations. (Sovetskaya Kul'tura, Sept. 1) Since the order includes proposals aimed at improving variety show (estradny) repertoires and bringing forth new talent, it may be aimed at combatting both the dullness of much of the Soviet variety show and the growing amount of Western and jazz-influenced music being performed.

Especially interesting is a section of the order aimed at producing closer ties between the Ministry and the Unions of Composers and Writers and seeking to correct a situation that allows individual members of the unions to produce and distribute artistically inferior works, "thus harming the esthetic development of the people." This section would seem to increase the Ministry's role in ideological supervision of the unions.

14. Red Star-Sole Service Daily: The newspapers Sovietskaya Aviatsiya (Soviet Aviation) and Sovietskiy Flot (Soviet Fleet) ended publication on August 31, 1960. K. naya Zvezda, (Red Star), the central organ of the Ministry of Defense, has been given the responsibility of increasing its coverage of naval and air matters to replace the discontinued papers.

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COMMENT: In effect, Red Star has long tended to serve more as the central press organ for the Army than for the Soviet Armed Forces as a whole. Its absorption of the Naval Aviation organs may be intended to increase operational efficiency, reduce individual "service consciousness", and obviate the need (on prestige-protocol grounds) for establishing a fourth service organ for the Soviet Rocket Forces, recently granted status as a separate branch under the Ministry of Defense.

MILITARY - Negative

For the Ambassador:


Robert I. Owen
First Secretary of Embassy

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